

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 6-10 and 12 are amended to obviate informalities, and not for substantial reasons of patentability. New claims 14-16 are added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the reference submitted with the February 28, 2005, Information Disclosure Statement. For the Examiner's convenience, a courtesy copy of the February 28, 2005, Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-9, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,838,361 to Takeo. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Takeo discloses all elements recited in claims 1-5, 7-9, 12 and 13. However, Takeo does not disclose or suggest forming a base member upon a substrate, and ejecting a plurality of drops onto a top surface of the base member, as recited in claims 1, 10 and 12.

Takeo discloses dropping a first organic or inorganic material 10 onto a substrate 1. See Fig. 1A and col. 5, lines 15-25. Takeo discloses dropping the first material onto a substrate, but does not disclose or suggest dropping the first material on a base member formed on a substrate.

Takeo discloses dropping a second material 20 after dropping the first material 10. See Figs. 1F-1I, and col. 6, lines 61-66. The second material 20 is dropped in a region where the first material 10 has been completely removed. See Fig. 1E, and col. 6, lines 24-25 and lines 43-44. In particular, the second material 20 lands on the substrate 1 and is spread on the substrate 1 up to an edge formed by the first material. See Figs. 1G and 1H, and col. 6, lines 61-66. Thus, the second material is dropped on a substrate, and not on a top surface of a base member formed on a substrate.

It appears that the Office Action is asserting that the first material 10 disclosed in Takeo reads on the recited "base member." However, as discussed above, Takeo discloses that the second material 20 is dropped on the substrate 1 in the region where the first material 10 has been completely removed. Thus, the second material 20 is not dropped or ejected on a top surface of the "base member (the first material)." Furthermore, although Takeo discloses, in Figures 1G and 1H, that the second material 20 is ejected on the side of the ring 14 formed of the first material 10, the second material 20 is still not ejected on a top surface of the ring 14.

For at least the above reasons, Takeo does disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 10 and 12. Therefore, Takeo does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 12, and claims 2-5, 7-9 and 13 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-9, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takeo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,925 to Banno et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Banno discloses depositing a droplet 7 on a substrate 1 and between electrodes 2 and 3. See Fig. 1B and col. 8, lines 5-11. Banno does not disclose or suggest dropping a material on a top surface of a member formed on a substrate. Therefore, Banno does not supply the subject matter lacking in Takeo.

For at least the above reasons, Takeo and Banno do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 10, and claim 11 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 10 and 12, from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Courtesy copy of the February 28, 2005, Form PTO-1449

Date: May 13 2005

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